Outsourcing by Railways

3178. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the services of UK firm to get the stink out of the toilet at Church Gate railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for such outsourcing of work to a foreign agency when we have our own effective and indigenous mechanism;

(c) whether MoU was signed with foreign agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cost effectiveness and advantage of such outsourcing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion in Karnataka

3179. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to convert Hassan-Mangalore railway line into broad-gauge is yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the present status of the project, the amount spent, so far, and the likely date by when the line would be opened for the passenger trains;

(c) whether projects like Hubli-Ankola (new line), Solapur-Gadag (gauge conversion) and Hospet-Guntkal (line doubling) have been proposed by Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore line has already been completed and commissioned for goods traffic. However, Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur ghat section is yet to be opened for passenger services. This section will be opened for passenger services after inspection and authorization by Commissioner of Railway Sefety (CRS), which will be planned after monsoon.